MCC/ Sociology

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Define the following terms:

* Bigotry -A bigot is a person obstinately or intolerantly devoted to his or her own opinions and prejudices, especially one exhibiting intolerance, and animosity toward those of differing beliefs.
* Prejudice - Making a judgment or assumption about someone or something before having enough knowledge to be able to do so with guaranteed accuracy, or "judging a book by its cover".
* Homophobe - negative attitudes and feelings towards homosexuality and people who are identified as or perceived as being homosexual
* Racist - often used to describe discrimination on an ethnic or cultural basis
* Anti-Semite - hatred toward Jews—individually and as a group—that can be attributed to the Jewish religion and/or ethnicity

1. Does Borat help you see the prejudices of other people more clearly? Briefly explain and provide two examples from the video.

Yes:

* Borat arrives at the rodeo, with plans to sing the national anthem. The rodeo’s producer, Bobby Rowe, helpfully advises Borat to shave his mustache, so as not to be mistaken for a Muslim.
* When Borat tries to kiss him on the cheek, Rowe tells him never to do that, that people might get the wrong impression that he is gay. After Borat declares, “We hang homosexuals in my country!”

1. Does Borat help you see your own prejudices more clearly? Briefly explain.

* Yes, Borat helped enlighten my views that some countries may seem to have some abnormal habits, but in actuality is not so bizarre. Such as, Borat washing his face in the toilet is completely unacceptable by us Americans because many of us have never been but in a place where running water a problem.

1. Borat talks and acts like a bigot from the opening title to the closing credits. Do you think that the expression of bigotry is inherently offensive, and should always be avoided? Or do you believe that the satirical expression of bigotry can usefully reveal hidden prejudices? Explain your answer.

* I believe that satirical expression of bigotry can be useful, and shouldn’t be avoided because then the problem would never be addressed. I’ve watched Borat a couple of times, but never thought of why he did what he did, always thought it was slapdash humor. Watching with intent of catching peoples prejudice reactions, and the thought of my breaching the norm experiment bring a new life to this movie for me.